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REMARKS

Oath/Declaration

10 A. Turning now to the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the declaration filed on 1/14/02 was defective and that a new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) identifying this application by application number and filing date is required. See MPEP §§602.01 and 602.02. The Examiner Further stated that the defective declaration is directed to an invention entitled “Hybrid RF and Optical Wireless Communication Link and Network Structure Incorporating it therein”, which is not in accord with the instant application entitled “Method and System for Interactive Case and Video-based Teacher Training.”

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Applicant respectfully submits with this reply a declaration identifying this application by application number 09/922,223. The submitted declaration further includes the application’s filing date of August, 1, 2001, and is directed to the present application, entitled, “Method and System for Interactive Case and Video-based Teacher Training”.

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Having submitted a declaration in accordance with MPEP §§602.01 and 602.02, the Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

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Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

B. Claims 1-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicants regard as their invention. The Examiner stated that the reference for “teacher-users” was unclear. In addition, the Examiner further stated that the meaning of “teacher-users” was not understood in the written description.

The term “Teacher-user” is defined in the Glossary section, in which this term is generally used to identify a user of the lesson-building program. (See the present application, page 33, lines 1-2). A “teacher-user” uses the lesson-building program to compile a video case, resources, commentary, as well as a video case text track, index, and other items in order to build a lesson. (See the present application, page 33, lines 2-4). Additionally, the “teacher-user” can collect a group of lessons together as a course, and can control access to various aspects of lessons or courses. (See the present application, page 33, lines 4-5). Essentially, the “teacher-user” is to be juxtaposed with a “user” (i.e. student-user), where the “teacher-user” creates and builds lessons and courses in order to aid in the professional development of the “user”. The “user” is a student or mentee of the “teacher-user,” with the “teacher-user” serving as a guide to assist the “user” in learning from a video case. (See the present application, page 34, lines 3-5).

The Applicant believes that through an express definition in the Glossary section and the well known nature of the term “teacher,” that the term “teacher-user” is clear and not indefinite, thereby satisfying 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

C. Claims 1-8, 10-15, 17-31, 33-38, and 40-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mortimer et al. (USPN 6,091,930; hereinafter Mortimer).

The four factors relevant to determining obviousness are: 1) the scope and content
10 of the prior art, 2) the differences between the prior art and the Claims at issue, 3) the
level of ordinary skill in the art when the invention was made, and 4) secondary indicia,
such as commercial success and copying. *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 17, 86
S.Ct. 684, 694, 15 L.Ed.2d 545 (1966). In addition, an examiner addressing obviousness
must not take a "piecemeal approach, one in which [the examiner] takes the individual
15 elements, item by item, and tries to show us that they each exist somewhere in the prior
art. 'That all elements of an invention may have been old (the normal situation), some old
and some new, or all new, is ... simply irrelevant.' " *Litton Systems*, 728 F.2d at 1443
(quoting *Environmental Designs Ltd. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 713 F.2d 693, 698
(Fed.Cir.1983)); see also *Avia*, 853 F.2d at 1564 ("That some components of [the
20 challenged patent] exist in prior art references is not determinative. '[I]f the combined
teachings suggest only components of the Claimed design but not its overall appearance,
a rejection under section 103 is inappropriate.' ") (quoting *In re Cho*, 813 F.2d 378, 382
(Fed.Cir.1987)).

25 Claims 1, 2, 10, 17, 24, 25, 33, and 40

Regarding Claims 1, 2, 10, 17, 24, 25, 33, and 40, the Examiner stated that
Mortimer discloses an interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional
development of users, the interactive system comprising: a computer system including a
processor for executing programs and a memory for storing programs, with the computer
30 system having at least one display and at least one input element; the computer system
further comprising: a media database for storing at least one time-indexed digital video
case (Col. 5, lines 13-19; Col. 7, lines 20-26); at least one time-indexed text track with
each text track corresponding to a digital video case, and with the time-indexes of the text
track corresponding to time-indexes of the digital video case (Col. 9, lines 17-20); the
35 media database further including a time-indexed table of contents for each digital video

5 case (Col. 9, lines 19-34), digital resources relevant to each digital video case, and
commentary relevant to each digital video case (Col. 9, lines 9-10); a video assignment
database for storing at least one video case exercise and at least one video case user
response (Col. 25, lines 15-35); a user database for storing personal user notes (Col. 18,
lines 50-59); and a lesson database for storing lessons including a combination of items
10 from the media database, the video assignment database, and the administration database
that are organized to create a video-based lesson, and for storing groups of related lessons
as courses; and a lesson building program for allowing a teacher-user to combine
elements from the media database, the video assignment database, and the administration
database to create a case-based video lesson therefrom and to store the lessons within the
15 lesson database (See Fig. 3), the lesson building program further allowing the teacher-
user to organize lessons and exercises to create courses, each including a plurality of
lessons; and a lesson viewer program for allowing a user to view and navigate through
the courses and lessons to select a lesson to perform, to navigate through and view the
elements of the lesson to perform (See Fig. 6d), and to provide input into the video
20 assignments in the form of responses to exercises and to view, create, and edit entries into
a notebook of personal user notes (Col. 18, lines 50-59).

The Examiner further stated that Mortimer discloses all of the claimed subject
matter of Claims 1, 2, 10, 17, 24, 25, 33, and 40, with the exception of not explicitly
25 disclosing that the administrative database comprises user access permission information.
It is the Examiner's position, however, that authorization and permission information is a
notoriously well known feature for allowing select users to access remote computer
systems and thereby securing and restricting access from unauthorized users, and at the
time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art
30 to modify the administrative database described in Mortimer, to include such a feature.

Claims 1, 2, 10, 17, 24, 25, 33, and 40 are currently amended to
incorporate all of the limitations of Claims 9, 16, 32, and 39. Regarding Claims 9, 16, 32,
and 39, the Examiner stated that Mortimer discloses lesson exercises including requests
35 for user input in the form of questions and answers. It is not explicitly disclosed that the

5 user's answers are time-indexed and uploaded to the server system. The Examiner further stated that Thomas teaches an educational system comprising question/answer exercises, wherein a user's answer is time-indexed and uploaded to the server system (Col. 2, lines 7-9). The Examiner contends that at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the question/answer
10 exercises described in Mortimer, by time-indexing a user's answer, in light of the teachings of Thomas, in order to enable a user to monitor and evaluate his/her time performance while responding to questions (Col. 2, lines 9-11).

Thomas does not disclose that the user's answers are time-indexed as in the
15 present application. While Thomas discloses use of a timer or time-index, the Thomas invention attaches a substantially different meaning with the term. The invention disclosed in Thomas is a computerized learning approach for improving performance on multiple-choice exams. (Col. 1, lines 15-17). The Thomas invention was devised to aid users in their time-performance in time-limited examinations. (Col. 1, lines 19-22).
20 Thomas discloses using a computerized learning method that displays an elapsed timer for the user to select an answer choice for the question. (Col. 2, lines 7-9). This enables the user to monitor and evaluate his/her time performance on practice questions for the multiple choice exam. (Col. 2, lines 9-11). Through use of a timer, the Thomas invention can plot the time duration for each question or set of questions to produce a graph on a
25 display screen, allowing a user to evaluate his/her time performance, or time index. (Col. 2, lines 39-44).

The teaching of Thomas can be contrasted with the present application, where a user is not concerned about monitoring and evaluating his/her time performance while
30 responding to questions. The present application allows a user to view a video case. Upon viewing the video case, a user may input time-indexed exercises and answers. (See the present application, page 9, lines 12-14). The term time-index in the present application, may be used interchangeably with the word time-code, which is used to define a temporal point in a video. (See the present application, page 33, line 12 and lines
35 20-21). The important quality of time-codes is that they indicate particular points in the

5 video. (See the present application, page 33, lines 16-17). Time codes are used by teacher-users and other users to indicate points of interest in a video as well as in the index, table of contents, and text track of a video to allow the user to coordinate points with the actual video content. (See the present application, page 33, lines 17-20).

10 As applicable to Claims 9, 16, 32, and 39, the term time-index does not refer to timing a response to a question, as in Thomas, but instead to a particular point in a video. Through time-indexing, a user may look at a video case at a specific point (i.e. time-index mark), mark a video example at a particular point, and allow a respondent to mark their own point. Accordingly, Thomas does not disclose requests for user input in the form of
15 questions and time-indexed video case answers and marking codes as taught by the present application.

Furthermore, combining the teachings of Thomas with that of Mortimer does not result in the present application. Combining Mortimer with Thomas would result in an
20 interactive learning system where user's response to a question is timed, allowing the user to evaluate his/her time-performance. This is to be compared with the present application, where time is used to mark a particular point in a video, not to create a performance measure.

25 In order to present a prima facie case of obviousness, the Examiner must provide (1) one or more references (2) that were available to the inventor and (3) that teach (4) a suggestion to combine or modify the references, (5) the combination or modification of which would appear to be sufficient to have made the claimed invention obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

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For reasons stated above, a combination of Thomas with Mortimer does not teach all of the limitations of the present application. Also, even if the combination did teach the present application, the references must include a suggestion to combine or modify the references to arrive at the claimed invention, which they do not.

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5 Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner accept the current amendment and withdraw this rejection of Claims 1, 2, 10, 17, 24, 25, 33, and 40.

Claims 3, 11, 18, 26, 34, and 41

10 Regarding Claims 3, 11, 18, 26, 34, and 41, the Examiner stated that Mortimer discloses a server system further includes a web server system for serving lessons to the client computers (Col. 24, line 45).

15 The Applicant refers the Examiner to the comments above regarding Claims 1, 2, 10, 17, 24, 25, 33, and 40. As neither of the inventions of Mortimer and Thomas (either alone or in combination) teach all of the claimed limitations in Claims 1, 2, 10, 17, 24, 25, 33, and 40, the Applicant believes that these Claims, which depend therefrom, are also allowable. Thus, the Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

20 Claims 4, 12, 19, 27, 35, and 42

 Regarding Claims 4, 12, 19, 27, 35, and 42, the Examiner stated that Mortimer discloses digital video cases that are stored locally on the client systems (See Fig. 1, ref. 14.).

25 The Applicant refers the Examiner to the comments above regarding Claims 1, 2, 10, 17, 24, 25, 33, and 40. As neither of the inventions of Mortimer and Thomas (either alone or in combination) teach all of the claimed limitations in Claims 1, 2, 10, 17, 24, 25, 33, and 40, the Applicant believes that these Claims, which depend therefrom, are also allowable. Thus, the Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be
30 withdrawn.

Claims 5, 13, 20, 28, 36, and 43

 Regarding Claims 5, 13, 20, 28, 36, and 43, the Examiner stated that Mortimer discloses digital video cases that are provided on a storage medium selected from the

5 group consisting of hard disks, optical disks, magnetic disks, and magnetic tapes (Col. 5, lines 30-31).

The Applicant refers the Examiner to the comments above regarding Claims 1, 2, 10, 17, 24, 25, 33, and 40. As neither of the inventions of Mortimer and Thomas (either
10 alone or in combination) teach all of the claimed limitations in Claims 1, 2, 10, 17, 24, 25, 33, and 40, the Applicant believes that these Claims, which depend therefrom, are also allowable. Thus, the Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

15 Claims 6, 14, 21, 29, 37, and 44

Regarding Claims 6, 14, 21, 29, 37, and 44, the Examiner stated that Mortimer discloses digital video cases that are downloaded from a server system onto the client systems so that they may be played back locally during lessons (Col. 24, lines 55-57).

20 The Applicant refers the Examiner to the comments above regarding Claims 1, 2, 10, 17, 24, 25, 33, and 40. As neither of the inventions of Mortimer and Thomas (either alone or in combination) teach all of the claimed limitations in Claims 1, 2, 10, 17, 24, 25, 33, and 40, the Applicant believes that these Claims, which depend therefrom, are also allowable. Thus, the Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be
25 withdrawn.

Claims 7, 15, 22, 30, and 45

Regarding Claims 7, 15, 22, 30, and 45, the Examiner stated that Mortimer discloses a server system further comprising a video and index builder for building a
30 time-coded text track, a time-coded index, and a time-coded table of contents for a time-coded digital video case (Col. 9, lines 17-20; Col. 9, lines 19-34; Col. 18, lines 50-59).

The Applicant refers the Examiner to the comments above regarding Claims 1, 2, 10, 17, 24, 25, 33, and 40. As neither of the inventions of Mortimer and Thomas (either
35 alone or in combination) teach all of the claimed limitations in Claims 1, 2, 10, 17, 24,

5 25, 33, and 40, the Applicant believes that these Claims, which depend therefrom, are also allowable. Thus, the Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 8, 23, 31, 38, and 46

10 Regarding Claims 8, 23, 31, 38, and 46, the Examiner stated that Mortimer further discloses means for uploading digital video cases, and time-coded text tracks, time-coded indexes, and time-coded table of contents from the client computers to the server computer for use by an author in creating a lesson (Col. 18, lines 50-59).

15 The Applicant refers the Examiner to the comments above regarding Claims 1, 2, 10, 17, 24, 25, 33, and 40. As neither of the inventions of Mortimer and Thomas (either alone or in combination) teach all of the claimed limitations in Claims 1, 2, 10, 17, 24, 25, 33, and 40, the Applicant believes that these Claims, which depend therefrom, are also allowable. Thus, the Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be
20 withdrawn.

5 D. Claims 9, 16, 32, and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mortimer et al. (USPN 6,091,930; hereinafter Mortimer) in view of Thomas (USPN 6,086,382).

Claims 9, 16, 32, and 39

10 Regarding Claims 9, 16, 32, and 39, the Examiner stated that Mortimer discloses lesson exercises including requests for user input in the form of questions and answers. It is not explicitly disclosed that the user's answers are time-indexed and uploaded to the server system. The Examiner further stated that Thomas teaches an educational system comprising question/answer exercises, wherein a user's answer is time-indexed and
15 uploaded to the server system (Col. 2, lines 7-9). The Examiner contends that at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the question/answer exercises described in Mortimer, by time-indexing a user's answer, in light of the teachings of Thomas, in order to enable a user to monitor and evaluate his/her time performance while responding to questions (Col. 2, lines 9-11).

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The limitations of Claims 9, 16, 32, and 39 have been incorporated into Claims 1, 2, 10, 17, 24, 25, 33, and 40. Thus, Applicant hereby cancels Claims 9, 16, 32, and 39.

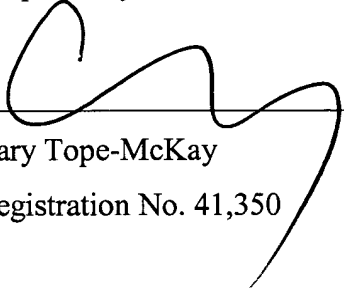
5 **Concluding Remarks:**

The Applicant respectfully submits that in light of the above comments and remarks, all Claims are now in allowable condition. The Applicant thus respectfully requests timely allowance of all of the pending Claims.

10 In the event the Examiner wishes to discuss any aspect of this response, or believes that a conversation with either Applicant or Applicant's representative would be beneficial the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

15 The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 50-2691. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed. The petition fee due
20 in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 50-2691.

Respectfully submitted,



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CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) An interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of users by teacher-users, the interactive system
- 5 comprising:
- a. a computer system including a processor for executing programs and a memory for storing programs, with the computer system having at least one display and at least one input element;
 - b. the computer system further comprising:
 - 10 i. a media database for storing at least one time-indexed digital video case, optionally at least one time-indexed text track with each text track corresponding to a digital video case, and with the time-indexes of the text track corresponding to time-indexes of the digital video case; the media database further, and optionally,
 - 15 including a time-indexed table of contents for each digital video case, digital resources relevant to each digital video case, and commentary relevant to each digital video case;
 - ii. a video assignment database for storing at least one video case exercise and at least one video case user response;
 - 20 iii. an administration database for storing user access permissions and system settings;
 - iv. a user database for storing personal user notes; and

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v. a lesson database for storing lessons including a combination of items from the media database, the video assignment database, and the administration database that are organized to create a video-based lesson, and for storing groups of related lessons as courses; and

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c. a lesson building program for allowing a teacher-user to combine elements from the media database, the video assignment database, and the administration database to create a case-based video lesson therefrom and to store the lessons within the lesson database, the lesson building program further allowing the teacher-user to add elements to, to delete elements from, and to alter elements within the media database, the video assignment database, and the administration database; the lesson building program further allowing the teacher-user to organize lessons and exercises to create courses, each including a plurality of lessons; and

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d. a lesson viewer program for allowing a user to view and navigate through the courses and lessons to select a lesson to perform, to navigate through and view the elements of the lesson to perform, and to provide input into the video assignments in the form of responses to exercises and to view, create, and edit entries into a notebook of personal user notes; and

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e. wherein the lesson exercises include requests for user input in the form of video-case questions and time-indexed video case answers and marking codes, wherein the video-case questions contain time indexed video markers embedded in the question, allowing a user to pull up a time

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indexed point in a video corresponding to a point in a question, and
wherein the time indexed video-case answers allow a user to mark
responses in the video assignments at particular points as time indexed
video-case answers, and wherein the lesson exercises may be configured
5 to allow time-indexed video case user responses to be viewable only by
the user or by a plurality of users and to be applicable to only one lesson
or to a plurality of lessons, and wherein lesson exercises can optionally
accommodate the use of file attachments to allow for uploading time-
indexed video case answers from the client systems to the server system.

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- cont.
2. (Currently Amended) An interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of users by teacher-users, the interactive system comprising:
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- a. a computer network including a server system and at least one client system, with the server system and each respective client system including a processor for executing programs, a memory for storing programs, and input and output devices for interconnecting the server system and client systems;
 - 20 b. at least one of the server system and client systems including at least one display for providing output to a user and a user input device;
 - c. the server system further comprising:
 - i. a media database for storing at least one time-indexed digital video case, optionally at least one time-indexed text track with

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each text track corresponding to a digital video case, and with the time-indexes in the text tracks corresponding to time-indexes of the digital video case; the media database further, and optionally, including a time-indexed table of contents for each digital video case, digital resources relevant to each digital video case, and commentary relevant to each digital video case;

- ii. a video assignment database for storing at least one video case exercise and at least one video case user responses;
- iii. an administration database for storing user access permissions and system settings;
- iv. a user database for storing personal user notes; and
- v. a lesson database for storing lessons including a combination of items from the media database, the video assignment database, and the administration database that are organized to create a video-based lesson, and for storing groups of related lessons as courses; and
- vi. a lesson building program for allowing a teacher-user to combine elements from the media database, the video assignment database, and the administration database to create a case-based video lesson therefrom and to store the lessons within the lesson database, the lesson building program further allowing the teacher-user to add elements to, to delete elements from, and to alter elements within the media database, the video assignment database, and the

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administration database; the lesson building program further allowing the teacher-user to organize lessons and exercises to create courses, each including a plurality of lessons; and

d. the client computers further including:

5 i. a lesson viewer program for allowing a user to view and navigate through the courses and lessons to select a lesson to perform, to navigate through and view the elements of the lesson to perform, and to provide input into the video assignments in the form of responses to exercises and to view, create, and edit entries into a notebook of personal user notes; and

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cont. e. wherein the lesson exercises include requests for user input in the form of video-case questions and time-indexed video case answers and marking codes, wherein the video-case questions contain time indexed video markers embedded in the question, allowing a user to pull up a time
15 indexed point in a video corresponding to a point in a question, and wherein the time indexed video-case answers allow a user to mark responses in the video assignments at particular points as time indexed video-case answers, and wherein the lesson exercises may be configured to allow time-indexed video case user responses to be viewable only by
20 the user or by a plurality of users and to be applicable to only one lesson or to a plurality of lessons, and wherein lesson exercises can optionally accommodate the use of file attachments to allow for uploading time-indexed video case answers from the client systems to the server system.

3. (Original) An interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of teacher-users, as set forth in claim 2, wherein server system further includes a web server system for serving lessons to the client computers, and wherein the lesson viewer program on the client computers is a web browser.

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4. (Original) An interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of teacher-users, as set forth in claim 3, wherein the digital video cases are stored locally on the client systems to minimize the information transfer across the network during lessons.

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5. (Original) An interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of teacher-users as set forth in claim 4, where the digital video cases are provided on a storage medium selected from the group consisting of hard disks, optical disks, magnetic disks, and magnetic tapes.

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6. (Original) An interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of teacher-users as set forth in claim 4, wherein the digital video cases are downloaded from the server system onto the client systems so that they may be played back locally during lessons.

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7. (Original) An interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of teacher-users as set forth in claim 2, wherein the server system

further comprises a video and index builder, whereby a teacher-user can build a time-coded text track, a time-coded index, and a time-coded table of contents for a time-coded digital video case.

- 5 8. (Original) An interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of teacher-users as set forth in claim 7, further including means for uploading digital video cases, time-coded text tracks, time-coded indexes, and time-coded tables of contents from the client computers to the server computer for use by a teacher-user in creating a lesson.

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- a) 9. (Cancelled) An interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of teacher-users as set forth in claim 2, wherein the lesson exercises include requests for user input in the form of questions and time-indexed video case answers and marking codes, wherein the lesson exercises may be configured to allow time-indexed video case user responses to be viewable only by the user or by a plurality of users and to be applicable to only one lesson or to a plurality of lessons, and wherein lesson exercises can optionally accommodate the use of file attachments to allow for uploading time-indexed video case answers from the client systems to the server system.

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10. (Currently Amended) A client system for an interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of users by teacher-users, wherein the interactive system includes a server system including a processor for executing

programs, a memory for storing programs, and input and output devices for connecting with at least one client system, the server system further including a media database for storing at least one time-indexed digital video case, optionally at least one time-indexed text tracks with each text track corresponding to a digital video case, and with the time-indexes in the text track corresponding to time-indexes of the digital video case; the media database further, and optionally, including a time-indexed table of contents for each digital video case, digital resources relevant to each digital video case, and commentary relevant to each digital video case; a video assignment database for storing at least one exercise and at least one user response; an administration database for storing user access permissions and system settings; a user database for storing personal user notes; and a lesson database for storing lessons including a combination of items from the media database, the video assignment database, and the administration database that are organized to create a video-based lesson, and for storing groups of related lessons as courses; and a lesson building program for allowing a teacher-user to combine elements from the media database, the video assignment database, and the administration database to create a case-based video lesson therefrom and to store the lessons within the lesson database, the lesson building program further allowing the teacher-user to add elements to, to delete elements from, and to alter elements within the media database, the video assignment database, and the administration database; the lesson building program further allowing the teacher-user to organize lessons and exercises to create courses, each including a plurality of lessons, the client computer comprising:

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- a. a computer system including a processor for executing programs, a memory for storing programs, input and output devices for communicating with the server system, and at least one display for providing output to a user and a user input device; and
- b. the client computer further including a lesson viewer program for allowing a user to view and navigate through the courses and lessons to select a lesson to perform, to navigate through and view the elements of the lesson to perform, and to provide input into the video assignments in the form of responses to exercises and to view, create, and edit entries into a notebook of personal user notes; and
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- c. wherein the lesson exercises include requests for user input in the form of video-case questions and time-indexed video case answers and marking codes, wherein the video-case questions contain time indexed video markers embedded in the question, allowing a user to pull up a time indexed point in a video corresponding to a point in a question, and wherein the time indexed video-case answers allow a user to mark responses in the video assignments at particular points as time indexed video-case answers, and wherein the lesson exercises may be configured to allow time-indexed video case user responses to be viewable only by
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- 20 the user or by a plurality of users and to be applicable to only one lesson or to a plurality of lessons, and wherein lesson exercises can optionally accommodate the use of file attachments to allow for uploading time-indexed video case answers from the client systems to the server system.

11. (Original) A client system for an interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of teacher-users, as set forth in claim 10, wherein the lesson viewer program on the client computers is a web browser.

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12. (Original) A client system for an interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of teacher-users, as set forth in claim 11, wherein the digital video cases are stored locally on the client systems to minimize the information transfer across the network during lessons.

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13. (Original) A client system for an interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of teacher-users as set forth in claim 12, where the digital video cases are provided on a storage medium selected from the group consisting of hard disks, optical disks, magnetic disks, and magnetic tapes.

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14. (Original) A client system for an interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of teacher-users as set forth in claim 12, wherein the digital video cases are downloaded from the server system onto the client systems so that they may be played back locally during lessons.

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15. (Original) A client system for an interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of teacher-users as set forth in claim 10, further including means for uploading digital video cases, time-coded text tracks, time-

coded indexes, and time-coded tables of contents from the client computers to the server computer for use by a teacher-user in creating a lesson.

5 16. (Cancelled) A client system for an interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of teacher-users as set forth in claim 10, wherein the lesson exercises include requests for user input in the form of questions and answers and marking codes, wherein the lesson exercises may be configured to allow user responses to be viewable only by the user or by a plurality of users and to be applicable to only one lesson or to a plurality of lessons, and wherein lesson
10 exercises can optionally accommodate the use of file attachments to allow for uploading answers from the client systems to the server system.

17. (Currently Amended) A server system for an interactive, case-based system for
15 video-centric professional development of users by teacher-users, wherein the interactive system includes at least one client system, each client system including a processor for executing programs, a memory for storing programs, input and output devices for connecting with the server system, a display for providing output to a user, a user input device, and a lesson viewer program for allowing a
20 user to view and navigate through the courses and lessons to select a lesson to perform, to navigate through and view the elements of the lesson to perform, and to provide input into the video assignments in the form of responses to exercises and to view, create, and edit entries into a notebook of personal user notes, the server system comprising:

a. a computer including a including a processor for executing programs, a memory for storing programs, and input and output devices for interconnecting the server system and client systems;

b. the server system further comprising:

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i. a media database for storing at least one time-indexed digital video case, optionally at least one text tracks with each text track corresponding to a digital video case, and with the time-indexes in the text track corresponding to time-indexes of the digital video case; the media database further, and optionally, including a time-indexed table of contents for each digital video case, digital resources relevant to each digital video case, and commentary relevant to each digital video case;

ii. a video assignment database for storing at least one exercise and at least one user response;

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iii. an administration database for storing user access permissions and system settings;

iv. a user database for storing personal user notes; and

v. a lesson database for storing lessons including a combination of items from the media database, the video assignment database, and the administration database that are organized to create a video-based lesson, and for storing groups of related lessons as courses; and

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- c. a lesson building program for allowing a teacher-user to combine elements from the media database, the video assignment database, and the administration database to create a case-based video lesson therefrom and to store the lessons within the lesson database, the lesson building program further allowing the teacher-user to add elements to, to delete elements from, and to alter elements within the media database, the video assignment database, and the administration database; the lesson building program further allowing the teacher-user to organize lessons and exercises to create courses, each including a plurality of lessons; and
- d. wherein the lesson exercises include requests for user input in the form of video-case questions and time-indexed video case answers and marking codes, wherein the video-case questions contain time indexed video markers embedded in the question, allowing a user to pull up a time indexed point in a video corresponding to a point in a question, and wherein the time indexed video-case answers allow a user to mark responses in the video assignments at particular points as time indexed video-case answers, and wherein the lesson exercises may be configured to allow time-indexed video case user responses to be viewable only by the user or by a plurality of users and to be applicable to only one lesson or to a plurality of lessons, and wherein lesson exercises can optionally accommodate the use of file attachments to allow for uploading time-indexed video case answers from the client systems to the server system.

18. (Original) A server system for an interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of teacher-users, as set forth in claim 17, wherein server system further includes a web server system for serving lessons to the client computers, and wherein the lesson viewer program on the client computers is a web browser.

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19. (Original) A server system for an interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of teacher-users, as set forth in claim 18, wherein the digital video cases are stored locally on the client systems to minimize the information transfer across the network during lessons.

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20. (Original) A server system for an interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of teacher-users as set forth in claim 19, where the digital video cases are provided on a storage medium selected from the group consisting of hard disks, optical disks, magnetic disks, and magnetic tapes.

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21. (Original) A server system for an interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of teacher-users as set forth in claim 19, wherein the digital video cases are downloaded from the server system onto the client systems so that they may be played back locally during lessons.

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22. (Original) A server system for an interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of teacher-users as set forth in claim 17, wherein the server system further comprises a video and index builder, whereby a teacher-user can build a time-coded text track, a time-coded index, and a time-coded table of contents for a time-coded digital video case.

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23. (Original) A server system for an interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of teacher-users as set forth in claim 22, further including means for uploading digital video cases, time-coded text tracks, time-coded indexes, and time-coded tables of contents from the client computers to the server computer for use by a teacher-user in creating a lesson.

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24. (Currently Amended) An interactive, case-based method for providing video-centric professional development of users by teacher-users, the method comprising the steps of:

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- a. providing a computer system including a processor for executing programs and a memory for storing programs, with the computer system having at least one display and an input element;
- b. providing a media database on the computer system for storing at least one time-indexed digital video case, optionally at least one text track with each text track corresponding to a digital video case, and with the time-indexes of the video text track corresponding to time-indexes of the digital video case; the media database further, and optionally, including a time-

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indexed table of contents for each digital video case, digital resources relevant to each digital video case, and case commentary relevant to each digital video case;

c. providing a video assignment database on the computer system for storing at least one exercise and at least one user response;

d. providing an administration database on the computer system for storing user access permissions and system settings;

e. providing a user database on the computer system for storing personal user notes; and providing a lesson database on the computer system for storing lessons including a combination of items from the media database, the video assignment database, and the administration database that are organized to create a video-based lesson, and for storing groups of related lessons as courses;

f. providing a lesson building program for allowing a teacher-user to combine elements from the media database, the video assignment database, and the administration database to create a case-based video lesson therefrom and to store the lessons within the lesson database, the lesson building program further allowing the teacher-user to add elements to, to delete elements from, and to alter elements within the media database, the video assignment database, and the administration database; the lesson building program further allowing the teacher-user to organize lessons and exercises to create courses, each including a plurality of lessons; and

g. providing a lesson viewer program for allowing a user to view and navigate through the courses and lessons to select a lesson to perform, to navigate through and view the elements of the lesson to perform, and to provide input into the video assignments in the form of responses to exercises and to view, create, and edit entries into a notebook of personal user notes; and

h. requesting for user input in the lesson exercises in the form of video-case questions and time-indexed video case answers and marking codes,
wherein the video-case questions contain time indexed video markers embedded in the question, allowing a user to pull up a time indexed point in a video corresponding to a point in a question, and wherein the time indexed video-case answers allow a user to mark responses in the video assignments at particular points as time indexed video-case answers, and wherein the lesson exercises may be configured to allow time-indexed video case user responses to be viewable only by the user or by a plurality of users and to be applicable to only one lesson or to a plurality of lessons, and wherein lesson exercises can optionally accommodate the use of file attachments to allow for uploading time-indexed video case answers from the client systems to the server system.

25. (Currently Amended)) An interactive, case-based method for video-centric professional development of users by teacher-users, the method comprising the steps of:

5 a. providing a computer network including a server system and at least one client system, with the server system and each respective client system including a processor for executing programs, a memory for storing programs, and input and output devices for interconnecting the server system and client systems, with at least one of the server system and client systems including at least one display for providing output to a user and a user input device;

b. providing, on the server system:

10 i. a media database for storing at least one time-indexed digital video case, optionally at least one text track with each text track corresponding to a digital video case, and with the time-indexes in the video text track corresponding to time-indexes of the digital video case; the media database further, and optionally, including a time-indexed table of contents for each digital video case, digital
15 resources relevant to each digital video case, and commentary relevant to each digital video case;

ii. a video assignment database for storing at least one exercise and at least one user response;

20 iii. an administration database for storing user access permissions and system settings;

iv. a user database for storing personal user notes; and

v. a lesson database for storing lessons including a combination of items from the media database, the video assignment database, and

the administration database that are organized to create a video-based lesson, and for storing groups of related lessons as courses; and

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- vi. a lesson building program for allowing a teacher-user to combine elements from the media database, the video assignment database, and the administration database to create a case-based video lesson therefrom and to store the lessons within the lesson database, the lesson building program further allowing the teacher-user to add elements to, to delete elements from, and to alter elements within the media database, the video assignment database, and the administration database; the lesson building program further allowing the teacher-user to organize lessons and exercises to create courses, each including a plurality of lessons; and

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- c. providing on the client computers:

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- i. a lesson viewer program for allowing a user to view and navigate through the courses and lessons to select a lesson to perform, to navigate through and view the elements of the lesson to perform, and to provide input into the video assignments in the form of responses to exercises and to view, create, and edit entries in a notebook of personal user notes; and

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- d. wherein the lesson exercises include requests for user input in the form of video-case questions and time-indexed video case answers and marking codes, wherein the video-case questions contain time indexed video

markers embedded in the question, allowing a user to pull up a time indexed point in a video corresponding to a point in a question, and wherein the time indexed video-case answers allow a user to mark responses in the video assignments at particular points as time indexed video-case answers, and wherein the lesson exercises may be configured to allow time-indexed video case user responses to be viewable only by the user or by a plurality of users and to be applicable to only one lesson or to a plurality of lessons, and wherein lesson exercises can optionally accommodate the use of file attachments to allow for uploading time-indexed video case answers from the client systems to the server system.

26. (Original) An interactive, case-based method for video-centric professional development of teacher-users, as set forth in claim 25, further including the step of providing the server system with a web server system for serving lessons to the client computers, and wherein the lesson viewer program provided on the client computers is a web browser.

27. (Original) An interactive, case-based method for video-centric professional development of teacher-users, as set forth in claim 26, wherein the digital video cases are stored locally on the client systems to minimize the information transfer across the network during lessons.

28. (Original) An interactive, case-based method for video-centric professional development of teacher-users, as set forth in claim 27, where the digital video

cases are provided on a storage medium selected from the group consisting of hard disks, optical disks, magnetic disks, and magnetic tapes.

5 29. (Original) An interactive, case-based method for video-centric professional development of teacher-users, as set forth in claim 27, wherein the digital video cases may be downloaded from the server system onto the client systems so that they can be played back locally during lessons.

10 30. (Original) An interactive, case-based method for video-centric professional development of teacher-users, as set forth in claim 25, further including the step of providing the server system with a video and index builder, whereby a teacher-user can build a time-coded text tracks, a time-coded index, and a time-coded table of contents for a time-coded digital video case.

15 31. (Original) An interactive, case-based method for video-centric professional development of teacher-users, as set forth in claim 30, further including the step of providing means for uploading digital video cases, time-coded text tracks, time-coded indexes, and time-coded tables of contents from the client computers to the server computer for use by a teacher-user in creating a lesson.

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32. (Cancelled) An interactive, case-based method for video-centric professional development of teacher-users, as set forth in claim 25, wherein the lesson exercises include requests for user input in the form of questions and answers and

marking codes, wherein the lesson exercises may be configured to allow user responses to be viewable only by the user or by a plurality of users and to be applicable to only one lesson or to a plurality of lessons, and wherein lesson exercises can optionally accommodate the use of file attachments to allow for uploading answers from the client systems to the server system.

33. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a client system for an interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of users by teacher-users, wherein the interactive system includes a server system including a processor for executing programs, a memory for storing programs, and input and output devices for connecting with at least one client system, the server system further including a media database for storing at least one time-indexed digital video case, optionally at least one time-indexed text track with each text track corresponding to a digital video case, and with the time-indexes in the video text tracks corresponding to time-indexes of the digital video case; the media database further, and optionally, including a time-indexed table of contents for each digital video case, digital resources relevant to each digital video case, and commentary relevant to each digital video case; a video assignment database for storing at least one lesson exercise for a user to perform and at least one workbook to store user responses to the lesson exercise; an administration database for storing user access permissions and system settings; a user database for storing personal user notes; and a lesson database for storing lessons including a combination of items from the media database, the video assignment database, and the administration

database that are organized to create a video-based lesson, and for storing groups of related lessons as courses; and a lesson building program for allowing a teacher-user to combine elements from the media database, the video assignment database, and the administration database to create a case-based video lesson therefrom and to store the lessons within the lesson database, the lesson building program further allowing the teacher-user to add elements to, to delete elements from, and to alter elements within the media database, the video assignment database, and the administration database; the lesson building program further allowing the teacher-user to organize lessons and exercises to create courses, each including a plurality of lessons, the method of providing the client system comprising the steps of:

- a. providing a computer system including a processor for executing programs, a memory for storing programs, input and output devices for communicating with the server system, and at least one display for providing output to a user and a user input device; and
- b. providing, on the client system, a lesson viewer program for allowing a user to view and navigate through the courses and lessons to select a lesson to perform, to navigate through and view the elements of the lesson to perform, and to provide input into the video assignments in the form of responses to exercises and to view, create, and edit entries in a notebook of personal user notes; and
- c. requesting for user input in the lesson exercises in the form of video-case questions and time-indexed video case answers and marking codes.

wherein the video-case questions contain time indexed video markers
embedded in the question, allowing a user to pull up a time indexed point
in a video corresponding to a point in a question, and wherein the time
indexed video-case answers allow a user to mark responses in the video
5 assignments at particular points as time indexed video-case answers, and
wherein the lesson exercises may be configured to allow time-indexed
video case user responses to be viewable only by the user or by a plurality
of users and to be applicable to only one lesson or to a plurality of lessons,
and wherein lesson exercises can optionally accommodate the use of file
10 attachments to allow for uploading time-indexed video case answers from
the client systems to the server system.

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34. (Original) A method of providing a client system for an interactive, case-based
system for video-centric professional development of teacher-users, as set forth in
15 claim 33, wherein the lesson viewer program provided on the client computers is
a web browser.

35. (Original) A method of providing a client system for an interactive, case-based
system for video-centric professional development of teacher-users, as set forth in
20 claim 34, further including the step of providing means whereby digital video
cases may be stored locally on the client systems to minimize the information
transfer across the network during lessons.

36. (Original) A method of providing a client system for an interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of teacher-users as set forth in claim 35, where the digital video cases are provided on a storage medium selected from the group consisting of hard disks, optical disks, magnetic disks, and magnetic tapes.

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37. (Original) A method of providing a client system for an interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of teacher-users as set forth in claim 35, further including the step of providing means by which the digital video cases may be downloaded from the server system onto the client systems so that they may be played back locally during lessons.

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38. (Original) A method of providing a client system for an interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of teacher-users as set forth in claim 33, further including the step of providing means for uploading digital video cases, time-coded text tracks, time-coded indexes, and time-coded tables of contents from the client computers to the server computer for use by a teacher-user in creating a lesson.

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39. (Cancelled) A method of providing a client system for an interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of teacher-users as set forth in claim 33, wherein the lesson exercises include requests for user input in the form of questions and answers and marking codes, wherein the lesson exercises may be

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configured to allow user responses to be viewable only by the user or by a plurality of users and to be applicable to only one lesson or to a plurality of lessons, and wherein lesson exercises can optionally accommodate the use of file attachments to allow for uploading answers from the client systems to the server system.

40. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a server system for an interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of users by teacher-users, wherein the interactive system includes at least one client system, each client system including a processor for executing programs, a memory for storing programs, input and output devices for connecting with the server system, a display for providing output to a user, a user input device, and a lesson viewer program for allowing a user to view and navigate through the courses and lessons to select a lesson to perform, to navigate through and view the elements of the lesson to perform, and to provide input into the video assignments in the form of responses to exercises and to view, create, and edit entries in a notebook of personal user notes, the method of providing the server system comprising:

- a. providing a computer including a including a processor for executing programs, a memory for storing programs, and input and output devices for interconnecting the server system and client systems;
- b. providing the server system with:
 - i. a media database for storing at least one time-indexed digital video case, optionally at least one time-indexed text track with

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each text track corresponding to a digital video case, and with the time-indexes in the video text tracks corresponding to time-indexes of the digital video case; the media database further, and optionally, including a time-indexed table of contents for each digital video case, digital resources relevant to each digital video case, and commentary relevant to each digital video case;

ii. a video assignment database for storing at least one exercise and at least one user response;

iii. an administration database for storing user access permissions and system settings;

iv. a user database for storing personal user notes; and

v. a lesson database for storing lessons including a combination of items from the media database, the video assignment database, and the administration database that are organized to create a video-

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based lesson, and for storing groups of related lessons as courses; and

c. a lesson building program for allowing a teacher-user to combine elements from the media database, the video assignment database, and the administration database to create a case-based video lesson therefrom and to store the lessons within the lesson database, the lesson building program further allowing the teacher-user to add elements to, to delete elements from, and to alter elements within the media database, the video assignment database, and the administration database; the lesson building

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program further allowing the teacher-user to organize lessons and exercises to create courses, each including a plurality of lessons; and

- d. wherein the lesson exercises include requests for user input in the form of video-case questions and time-indexed video case answers and marking codes, wherein the video-case questions contain time indexed video markers embedded in the question, allowing a user to pull up a time indexed point in a video corresponding to a point in a question, and wherein the time indexed video-case answers allow a user to mark responses in the video assignments at particular points as time indexed video-case answers, and wherein the lesson exercises may be configured to allow time-indexed video case user responses to be viewable only by the user or by a plurality of users and to be applicable to only one lesson or to a plurality of lessons, and wherein lesson exercises can optionally accommodate the use of file attachments to allow for uploading time-indexed video case answers from the client systems to the server system.

41. (Original) A method for providing a server system for an interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of teacher-users, as set forth in claim 40, further comprising the step of providing the server system with a web server system for serving lessons to the client computers, and wherein the lesson viewer program on the client computers is a web browser.

42. (Original) A method for providing a server system for an interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of teacher-users, as set forth in claim 41, further comprising means for storing the digital video cases locally on the client systems to minimize the information transfer across the network during lessons.

43. (Original) A method for providing a server system for an interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of teacher-users as set forth in claim 42, where the digital video cases are provided on a storage medium selected from the group consisting of hard disks, optical disks, magnetic disks, and magnetic tapes.

44. (Original) A method for providing a server system for an interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of teacher-users as set forth in claim 42, further comprising the step of providing means for downloading the digital video cases from the server system onto the client systems so that they may be played back locally during lessons.

45. (Original) A method for providing a server system for an interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of teacher-users as set forth in claim 40, further comprising the step of providing the server system with a video and index builder, whereby a teacher-user can build a time-coded text track, a

time-coded index, and a time-coded table of contents for a time-coded digital video case.

46. (Original) A method for providing a server system for an interactive, case-based system for video-centric professional development of teacher-users as set forth in claim 45, further comprising the step of providing means for uploading digital video cases, time-coded text tracks, time-coded indexes, and time-coded tables of contents from the client computers to the server computer for use by a teacher-user in creating a lesson.

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